

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 10 and 11 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 10 and 11 are amended and claims 4-9 are cancelled without prejudice of disclaimer. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,642,247 to Mouri et al. (hereinafter “Mouri”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,419,356 (hereinafter “Sadasivan”) to Sadasivan et al. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

In order to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, three criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the combined references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be some expectation of success. Third, the cited references must disclose or suggest all of the claim limitations. MPEP 2143. Applicants maintain that the Office Action fails to establish a prima facie case of obviousness with respect to claims 1-3, 10 and 11.

Mouri describes a recording medium having an upper layer and an under layer that is more hydrophilic than the upper layer. Sadasivan describes an ink-receiving layer containing a surfactant having an HLB number of less than about 10.

The references, alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest all of the claimed features. Claim 1 discloses “an ink-receiving layer capable of holding an ink, the ink-receiving layer including a hydrophilic fixing aid and the ink-receiving layer including a cation group-containing resin.” Neither Mouri nor Sadasivan discloses or suggests that the ink receiving layer includes a hydrophilic fixing aid. The ink-receiving layer is capable of receiving and holding the ink so that the image appears smooth and consistent. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Mouri nor Sadasivan neither teaches nor suggests the ink-receiving layer of the present invention.

In addition, neither Mouri nor Sadasivan disclose or suggest an ink-permeable layer having an inorganic filler having at least one hydrophilic group laid bare on a surface of the inorganic filler and the surface of the filler is covered with at least one lipophilic group of surfactants, as recited in claim 1. Thus, the applied references fail to disclose the features of claim 1 as described above.

Further, the Office Action does not provide the requisite motivation for combining Mouri and Sadavisan. Sadavisan does not discuss an ink-permeable layer that is less hydrophilic than an under layer and a ink receiving layer having a hydrophilic fixing aid. Thus, Mouri and Sadavisan fail to provide the requisite suggestion for combining and/or modifying their teachings to arrive at the claimed invention. Thus, Applicants maintain that claims 1-3, 10 and 11 are not rendered obvious by the cited references. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3, 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

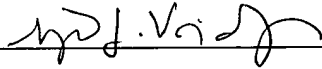
In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1349. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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